

recognition, Peggy's own accomplishments speak to her supererogatory nature.

Her devotion to her students and to pursuing her own continued education has paid great dividends with her students. Indeed, she spends her own summers teaching and learning at the University of Washington as well as the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. It is this kind of effort—to be the best possible educator one can be—that makes the education of all our children better.

I am pleased to have been able to give Peggy an Innovation in Education Award in recognition of her hard work, her dedication, and her devotion to making the lives of her students better. While Peggy teaches in a private school, she clearly demonstrates the common sense that permeates local educators in all of our constituencies. They can do amazing things if we make sure they have the resources to do so without the red tape that would otherwise stifle the learning of our children.

For too long the federal government has been in the business of placing burdensome regulations on our local schools. We have in Peggy O'Neill-Skinner an example of what educators can do without those restraints and we owe it to our children and grandchildren to let educators like Peggy reach their potential. That is why I will continue to fight hard on behalf of legislation that provides relief from red tape and brings more money into local classrooms where the people with real common sense to educate our children work everyday.●

RECOGNIZING APRIL 28, 1999, AS "ILLINOIS STUDENT TECHNOLOGY DAY"

● Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize April 28, 1999, as "Illinois Student Technology Day." On that day, approximately 140 schools will participate in school technology demonstrations at the eighth annual Students for the Information Age program at the Illinois State Capitol Building in Springfield.

During this all-day event in the middle of National Science & Technology Week, over 300 Illinois students will demonstrate the important impact technology, and access to it, has had in their classrooms.

The advancements that have been made in technology, and the role it has played in increasing access to valuable information and resources, has improved the learning experience for many of our nation's students. Technology has clearly become a powerful instrument for enhancing the learning process. With the advent of the information age, it is more important than ever to expose students to technological innovations that will play a crucial role in their intellectual development. We need to redouble our efforts to ensure that more students, especially those in rural and impover-

ished areas, have access to these technological advancements.

I hope that we can look at what will take place in Springfield, IL, on April 28, 1999, as a sign of the continuing commitment to give our students the best possible opportunity to learn and succeed both in the classroom and in their later careers.●

RECOGNIZING THE TRI-CITY CRYSTAL APPLE AWARDS PROGRAM

● Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, as my colleagues may remember, each week I give an Innovation in Education Award to recognize outstanding educators and education programs in Washington State. The premise is very simple, that local people in our communities, not bureaucrats here in Washington, DC, know best how to educate our children.

As nominations for these awards have poured into my office, I received one noting the work of the program I will recognize today: the Tri-City Crystal Apple Awards. The Crystal Apple Awards is sponsored by local service groups, businesses, and individuals. The community comes together to recognize educators who have a positive impact on the lives and futures of their students.

Each educator nominated for this award has demonstrated that he or she has a special focus on students, has enthusiasm and versatility in meeting individual needs, creativity in their use of curriculum and resources, give special attention to creating a constructive learning environment, have the ability to develop parent support and respect, and have the ability to inspire students so the student may achieve their maximum potential in life. These are truly outstanding characteristics for any educator to have.

I commend the Crystal Apple Award program for recognizing the excellence that occurs in their midst. Too often today, educators of great merit go without recognition. Indeed, currently there is a heated debate occurring in Washington State regarding teacher pay and methods to improve compensation for these deserving educators. The Crystal Apple Awards are doing the right thing in teaming up with the community to recognize the people that are making the difference in their local schools. My only regret is that I am not able to be in Richland for the awards presentation.

I hope that the attendees of the Crystal Apple Awards ceremony will have a pleasant event. I hope too that my colleagues will recognize the excellence in education found in communities across our country. This issue energizes me in a special way. I am glad to stand up for what the educators in my State have wanted for a long time: the freedom to innovate. That is why I will work hard this year to allow local communities to decide how to best spend their Federal education dollars; giving people like the recipients of the Crystal Apple Awards the flexibility to teach our kids

the way they—and only they—know best.●

TRIBUTE TO MARY MAIER

● Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Mary Maier, the associate director for the Wisconsin Rural Leadership Program. Mary will be retiring this month after an outstanding 26-year career with the University of Wisconsin Extension Service.

As a member of the Community Programs Division and then the Wisconsin Rural Leadership Program, Mary has demonstrated an unequalled passion and devotion to her work. Mary has worked as the associate director of the Wisconsin Rural Leadership Program since the program's inception in 1984. During this time she has helped make this one of the premier leadership training programs in the Nation. In 1988 she received the first Classified Staff Award for Excellence given by the University of Wisconsin Extension Service.

Mary's exceptional talent as a member of the Wisconsin Rural Leadership Training Program will be sorely missed by her colleagues. However, we all wish her the best in her retirement.●

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE CALENDAR

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration en bloc of the following measures reported by the Energy Committee: S. 361, Calendar No. 67; S. 426, Calendar No. 68; S. 430, Calendar No. 69; S. 449, Calendar No. 70; S. 330, Calendar No. 71.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that any committee amendments, if applicable, be agreed to, the bills be considered read the third time and passed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to any of these bills be printed at the appropriate place in the RECORD, with the above occurring en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DIRECTING SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR TO TRANSFER PROPERTY IN BIG HORN COUNTY, WYOMING

The bill (S. 361) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to transfer to John R. and Margaret J. Lowe of Big